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EXPANSION OF GDR FISHING COMBINES

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The expansion of the two East German fishing combines is progressing quietly; one is located in Sassnitz on Ruegen Island, and the other is in Rostock-Marienehe (on the grounds of the former Heinkel aircraft works). The two combines command a fleet which puts them in a position to fish the Baltic Sea area and large parts of the North Sea without difficulty. According to reliable sources, there are 280-300 serviceable East German fishing boats. Some of these are antiquated, but others are of very recent construction.

In the last 2 years, special shipbuilding yards have been selected for the East German state fishing fleet, particularly the considerably enlarged yard in Rostock-Gehlsdorf (has installations for 250-ton cutters and 1,000-ton /line omitted in original/), the shipbuilding and repair yard in Stralsund (does finishing work on luggers built at Boizenburg/Elbe and Rosslau/Elbe), and the shipyard in Rosslau. Altogether, the 1953-1954 increment of new fishing boats in East Germany may be 60-70 vessels; a considerable portion of the new construction work is allotted to ships which will be exported or counted as reparations.

According to the most recent information, the trawlers are 54 meters long and have a capacity of around 5,000 baskets of fish. A 625-horsepower engine enables them to reach a speed of about 12 knots. Their range is about 9,000 nautical miles, equivalent to a trip of about 35 days. The trawlers are of completely welded steel construction.

The luggers have an over-all length of approximately 33.5 meters and a capacity of around 110 tons of fresh fish. The vessels (some are riveted and some completely welded) are powered by an engine of 300-400 horsepower, with which they achieve a speed of 9-10 knots. They can remain at sea about 20 days.

There are two types of cutters. The smaller type has a capacity of 11 tons with an 80-horsepower engine. This cutter was developed for both domestic use and for export. The larger type has a capacity of 35 tons and a 200 horsepower engine.

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